Formation of cadre for doctors

†2677. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dilli ke sarkari Asptalo mein doctor bhi theke par", which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 9th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that neither any cadre for doctors has been created in Government Hospitals nor permanent job has been given to them; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The news item mainly relates to doctors working under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on *ad-hoc* or contract basis. 'Public Health' is a State List subject. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has made these *ad-hoc* or contract appointment of doctors without consulting the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This Ministry does not maintain data on doctors appointed by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on contract/*ad-hoc* basis. As per available information the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has engaged six consultants for formation of separate Delhi Health Cadre.

Increase in fake drug business

2678. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business of fake drugs is increasing in the country particularly in Delhi since the last few years;

(b) if so, whether laxity in various laws, slow litigation and light punishment are the main causes of increase in number of fake drugs business;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any step to strengthen various laws for deterrent punishment to the manufacturers and sellers of fake drugs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Governments. Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity indulged in by unlicensed and anti-social persons. Such activities by unscrupulous persons are carried out at isolated places irrespective of State jurisdiction. This being an undercover activity, it is not feasible to assess the quantum of inflow of spurious/fake medicines of such drugs. As per the feedback given by the Drugs Control Administration, NCT of Delhi, Delhi is having one of the biggest whole sale markets of drugs in the country and as such Delhi could be a transit point of transaction of drugs including drugs of questionable quality.

Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Section 17-B of the said Act defines spurious drugs as a medicine manufactured under a name which belongs to another or if it is an imitation or substitute, wholly or partly of another drugs or if the label of container bears the name of fictitious or non existent firm Section 27 of the said Act prescribes penal provisions for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Sale of spurious drugs, if detected is punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/-. Hence there are adequate provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to tackle the problem of spurious drugs.

Handling of cases during major disasters by hospitals

2679. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government hospitals in the country are incapable of handling cases during major disasters and due to non-availability of beds in the disaster management wards, the patients are invariably referred to other hospitals;